



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

*Sesquicentennial*

September 14, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial  
Management, Government Information,  
and International Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-3604

Dear Senator Coburn:

Auburn University is in receipt of your letter of July 27, 2006, and welcomes the opportunity to highlight the contributions of our faculty and staff through research. Auburn University is a land-grant and comprehensive research institution with more than 23,000 students and 6,500 faculty and staff. Ranked among the top 50 public universities nationally, Auburn offers more than 230 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degree programs.

In support of the research conducted by Auburn scientists, faculty and staff, we have worked to identify funding from local, state and federal sources. The investment made in Auburn has in turn been leveraged to so that Auburn is estimated to have a \$4 billion impact on the state and regional economies. This work has been performed by Auburn staff, particularly through the office of the Vice President for Research. In addition, Auburn has utilized the services of contract lobbyists based in Washington, D.C. This allows our University to present accurate information to Congress without the expense of maintaining an office in Washington with the attendant costs in both staff and facilities. This approach has allowed Auburn to be successful securing federal investments through both competitive grants and directed funds to further the University's mission to serve the citizens of the State through its instructional, research and outreach programs and prepare Alabamians to respond successfully to the challenges of a global economy.

In addition to seeking funds for research from governmental entities, Auburn is making significant and targeted contributions to research from its own funds. Earlier this month, our Board of Trustees approved a budget that included \$3 million from our state appropriation to support an alternative fuels initiative that we believe will have a positive impact on both our nation's economy and our stated national goal of energy independence.

Sincerely,

Ed Richardson  
President

*Owing much to the past, Auburn's greater debt is ever to the future.*